



Frank Calls for More Rental Housing Says Homeownership is not for Everyone

"This [Bush] administration is acting as if the only important program to help people with housing issues is to get them into homeownership. I think that overemphasis has contributed to the subprime crisis. People were put into homeownership who just economically should not have been there."

Congressman Barney Frank, "Mortgage Crisis Calls American Dream Into Question" by Andrea Hopkins, Reuters, April 3, 2007

"In fact, Barney Frank is the only politician I know who has argued that we needed tighter rules that intentionally produce fewer homeowners and more renters. Politicians usually believe homeownership rates should – must – go higher. The rarity of Mr. Frank's contrarian thinking is a reminder that when markets are committing excesses, we certainly should not expect Washington to act as a check on them."

Larry Lindsey, former advisor to Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, in "The KISS Rule for Markets," published in the Wall Street Journal, April 2, 2008

"I always want to make it clear that while homeownership is very important, it should not be considered all of our goal in the housing area. A large number of people, for economic reasons and other reasons, will be renters. It is a good thing if we can help people become homeowners, but we should not neglect the legitimate interests of renters."

Congressman Barney Frank, U.S. House of Representatives debate on the Manufactured Housing Loan Modification Act, July 25, 2006)

"Last year, when the FHA's plan to insure subprime loans was included in a Senate-passed appropriations bill, Frank, the ranking member of the House Financial Service Committee and a staunch supporter of low income housing, wrote a highly critical letter urging that the measure not be included in the House-Senate conference report. Not only had the House committee not examined or approved the proposal, he said then, but the measure also offered no protection against lenders' inappropriately steering people toward these high-cost loans. Nor did it offer safeguards to ensure that participants 'are fully suitable for homeownership.'"

"Home Sweet Home?" by Julie Kosterlitz, National Journal, March 6, 2004